

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, the specification is amended; and no claims are amended, canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,299,726 to Sauer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,461,188 to Reul.

With respect to the objection to the specification, the specification is amended by the present Amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), that rejection is respectfully traversed. Specifically, the applied art does not teach or suggest that in a region of the soldering location, the contact surface has at least one cutout via which a soldering filler metal is visible through the pane after the connection piece has been soldered to the contact surface, as recited in Claim 11.

Instead, Sauer discloses a glass sheet 1 having a thin transparent layer 2 provided thereon. Along or adjacent to edge 3 of glazing 1, a thin oxide layer 2 is covered with a coating 4 of tin brazing. The brazing coating 4 is deposited with an ultrasonic soldering machine so that the liquid brazing spreads out over and in the core of thin layer 2 by the heated bit with the ultrasonic vibration applied thereto. A copper strip 5 is applied to the tin coating with the strip 5 spot soldered or brazed to at contact points 6 at a spacing A. The strip 5 which can consist of a foil or a braid, is connected directly to the connector wire.

The Office Action acknowledges that Sauer does not disclose a cut out made in the soldering region. However, the Office Action asserts that Reul makes up for this deficiency. Applicants respectfully disagree. Reul merely discusses a related art document that includes a prefabricated laminated component consisting of a thin metal strip and an insulating sheath composed of thin layers of plastic sheets which surround the strip. The Office Action cites Reul for the description of a cutout, on column 2, lines 8-12. This paragraph of Reul is related to the document DE-C2-4304788 of St-Gobain which is equivalent to EP 0 612 119 cited in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement.

DE-C2-4304788 describes a connection element 6 connected to an electrical conductive surface 15 disposed on the glass surface 1. The connection element 6 comprises at one of its ends a welding eyelet 11 which includes a hollow 12 (cutout or window) for the introduction of welding 16 inside so as to weld the welding 16 to the conductive surface 15. Therefore DE-C2-4304788 describes a cutout or window disposed in the connector 6 for the introducing of the welding, but not a cutout disposed in the conductive surface 15. After the welding of the connection element 6, it is not possible to see through the glass surface 1 the welding on the conductive surface 15. In contrast, in one or more embodiments of the invention, the connection element 4 has no cutout. The cutout is made in the electroconducting surface 3 to see the soldering through the pane.

Again, the claimed invention recites that the contact surface has at least one cutout through which a soldering filler metal is visible after the connection piece has been soldered to the contact surface. Applicants respectfully submit that the discussion in Reul in column 2, lines 8-12 describing the document DE 4 304 788 does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention.

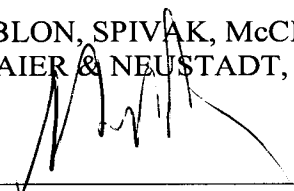
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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